

Inner City Reconstruction Group

128 Wilson Machesney Park, Illinois 815.218.2861

August 17, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

AUG 25 2014

FCC Mail Room

Dear Ms. Dortch:

For more than 24 years, I have hosted a community cable show in Rockford, Illinois where I interview business and government professionals, artists and others who wish to address the local community. Additionally, guests may entertain and offer tips and educational insight to the audience. I use the program to try and make a positive difference in the community where I live and work. Without help from Comcast for my program, it would not be as successful as it is today. I ask you to please approve the proposed Comcast and Time Warner Cable transaction.

My professional occupation is also in the realm of community development. I help ex-offenders find jobs through the Winnebago County Resource Intervention Center. These are people who have paid for their mistakes but still face difficulty finding employers who will give them a second chance, even though a person who is employed is less likely to return to crime. Yet, in the last two years, I have been able to help more than 150 former inmates get employment with local companies.

I am very active in my community as a co-founder and organizer of our annual Juneteenth celebrations in Rockford. I started Inner City Reconstruction Group to help youth and adults build important skills at school and work to get their lives in order. I also teach for the Wake Up Group, which is a class for young lawbreakers. In working on my goal of improving my community, I have volunteered with the Winnebago County Diversity Council and other organizations. My efforts have earned me recognition, including a 2010 Spirit of Caring Award from Crusader Community Health.

My show, "It's Time for a Change," aims to shine a light on those who make a difference in the Rockford region. I can't tell you how important this forum is. People say they have been inspired by the speakers and the artists I host. I want people to see the good that is around them and take that and improve their own lives. This kind of impact could not be possible without Comcast's help. Comcast provides studio space, production assistance and broadcast time on their local channel.

Diverse and minority programming has also been an important feature that Comcast has supported in our community. Through the years, I have seen Comcast offer more and more mainstream programming that is inspiring to minority viewers. Many of the independent channels that Comcast shows are minority-owned. It is important for our youth to see positive role models on TV that they can relate to, and see what they are capable of achieving. It would be wonderful to expose this type of positive and diverse independent programming to more children in areas that don't have Comcast service currently.

I sincerely hope the Commission will approve the transaction, because I believe that Comcast's commitment to my community, and the benefits my community has enjoyed through Comcast programming deserve to be shared with others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Meeks". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Tommy" and "Meeks" being capitalized and prominent.

Tommy Meeks
Founder Inner City Reconstruction Group